

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ECAB, UR, UK

SUBJECT: TRUD ON SHELEPIN IN BRITAIN

REF: LONDON 4661

1. SUMMARY. WHILE PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED ON VISIT OF SHELEPIN AND COLLEAGUES TO BRITAIN, ONLY TRUD (SOVIET TRADE UNION DAILY) HAS GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF CONTROVERSY AND INCIDENTS THAT HAVE SURROUNDED VISIT. ONE RESULT OF EPISODE MAY WELL BE WEAKENING OF BOTH SHELEPIN'S AND ANDROPOV'S POSITIONS IN FUTURE CONTENTION FOR LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 2 TRUD CARRIES REPORT FROM LONDON BY ITS CORRESPONDENT, V. ROGOV, ON ACTIVITIES OF SHELEPIN'S DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED AUCCTU SECRETARY P. T. PIMENOV AND PRESIDUM MEMBERS M.G. DOLZHENKOVA AND L. V. PETROV. AFTER REVIEWING SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY AUCCTU AND TUC DELEGATIONS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF TUC FRIENDLINESS TOWARD USSR IN TWENTIES AND WWII, ROGOV NOTES THAT PRESENT FRUITFUL, FRIENDLY CONTACTS
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HAVE EVOKED VIOLENT ANGER OF ALL SORTS OF REACTIONARIES,

FROM CONSERVATIVE COLD WARRIORS TO ZIONISTS. SHELEPIN IS THEN QUOTED (AT MEETING WITH ENGLISH AND SOVIET JOURNALIST) AS REPORTING THAT TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED ON WIDE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION TO INCLUDE RENEWAL OF ACTIVITIES OF ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE UNION COMMITTEE CREATED DURING WWII. SHELEPIN GOES ON TO CHARGE THAT NOISY FUSS RAISED AGAINST AUCCTU DELEGATION'S VISIT BY "SEGMENT OF ENGLISH PRESS," ZIONISTS, AND REACTIONARIES IS INTENDED TO DISRUPT DETENTE, RENEW COLD WAR, DISCREDIT RESULTS OF RECENT WILSON VISIT TO MOSCOW, AND PREVENT RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN SOVIET AND BRITISH TRADE UNIONS. AS IF IN REBUTTAL, SHELEPIN PRAISED PEACE PROGRAM OF 24TH PARTY CONGRESS, NOTING THAT THE PEOPLE AND PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE ONE AND THAT THERE IS COMPLETE UNITY OF VIEWPOINT IN PARTY AND POLITBURO ON "ABSOLUTELY ALL QUESTIONS OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICY." (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOWHERE IS SOVIET READER GIVEN ANY HINT THAT "NOISY FUSS" ABOUT SHELEPIN'S VISIT WAS RELATED TO HIS KGB HISTORY, SHELEPIN'S DEFENSIVENESS SEEMS DESIGNED TO BLUR HIS PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH KGB PRACTICES.)

3. UNDER HEADING "THE CORDIALITY OF WORKING SCOTLAND," ROGOV IN APRIL 3 TRUD PAINTS CLOUD-FREE PICTURE OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO GLASGOW AND KILMARNOCK AND DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW. NEXT TO ROGOV STORY, HOWEVER, IS TASS ACCOUNT OF TUC GENERAL SECRETARY MURRAY'S STATEMENT TO PRESS ASSOCIATION ATTACKING "LOUD CAMPAIGN BY ZIONIST AND RE-ACTIONARY CIRCLES" AGAINST SOVIET DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO TASS, MURRAY SAID THESE ARE SAME GROUPS WHICH ARE HOSTILE TO BRITISH TRADE UNIONS.

4. COMMENT: FUROR SURROUNDING SHELEPIN VISIT TO BRITAIN, WHICH EVEN SOVIET PRESS FELT IT COULD NOT IGNORE COMPLETELY, EMPHASIZES IN OUR VIEW OBSTACLES TO ADVANCEMENT WHICH KGB SERVICE REPRESENTS, NOT ONLY FOR SHELEPIN, BUT ALSO FOR PRESENT KGB CHAIRMAN ANDROPOV. LATTER WILL HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS EPISODE THAT "LAUNDERING" PERIOD (EVEN OF SEVERAL YEARS) IN ANOTHER JOB IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TO REMOVE KGB STIGMA IN EYES OF INFLUENTIAL WESTERN GROUPS. PARTY LEADERSHIP, MOREOVER, WILL NO DOUBT NOW THINK MORE THAN TWICE

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ABOUT WISDOM OF ELEVATING TO A TOP-LEVEL POSTION ANYONE WITH THIS PARTICULAR FOREIGN-RELATIONS MILLSTONE AROUND HIS NECK.

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